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COUNTRY	Lebanon/Syria The Effect of the Dissolution of the Communication on the Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties	DATE DISTR. 3 February 19
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- Lo The fact that the Soviet Union had dissolved the Communist International toward the close of World War II, in accordance with its interests at that time, was conveyed to the Lebanose Communist Party through the French Communist Party. The rank and file of the Communists were confused by this measure, adopted by the very power which orested the international, as they felt that the Communist International was essential for co-ordinating the world proletarian struggle, and for directing it in a manner consistent with the USSR's foreign policy and with Stalinist communist teachings. In the face of increasing Party criticism, leaders hastened to call neetings to explain to members the truth about the dissolution of the International, in the Light of instructions that they had received. One of the reasons offered in justification of the dissolution was the pressure on the Soviet Union to show its good will toward its allies. Other reasons were known only to leaders of the French Communist Party, source states.
- 2. It was decided at this time that the Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties should be outwardly independent of one another, and that each should follow its own independent policy. Actually, the two parties were subjected to one leader, Khalid Baghdash. Farajallah Hilu was Lebanese Communist PartySecretary in name only, and could not take any action on higher policy without first receiving the approval of the Central Committee composed of the leaders of the two parties, the secretary of which was Khalid Baghdash. Thus, Hilu merely implemented the decisions of the Central Committee of the Syrian-Lebanese Parties. Baghdash's control reached such a degree that he attended the ordinary meetings of the sections of the Lebanese Communist Party and acted as Chairman; this was naturally resented by Hilu.
- 3. Hilu worked hard to remove Baghdash's control and to make the Lebanese Communist Party actually independent, but circumstances were not propitious until the date of the dissolution of the Communist International. This decision encouraged Hilu's hopes of liberating the Party from Baghdash's interference. From that time, Hilu attended the meetings of the sections himself. He explained to the members the soundness of the action of the USSR in dissolving the International, with the following written justification:

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"Comrades: The Communist International was not intended to remain forever. The evolution and success of Leninist communism in Russia demanded the creation of an international league to support and contribute to the success of communism in more than one place in the world. Following the success of communism in Russia, and the treason of the socialists (namely the Second International), it became necessary to create a general leadership to direct the communist parties in the world to prevent them from falling into the errors of the socialists, and to help the spread of communism throughout the world. For this reason, therefore, the Third International was founded, headed by Comrade Dimitrov.

"The Communist International led the communist parties of the world in a sound, nationalist manner, taught them sound communist principles, and established in every country a cadre capable of leading the masses. When the International reached this stage it became necessary to dissolve it, because the purpose for which it was created was realized and each communist party in the world had experienced leaders, with a proper understanding of the Harxist-Leninist-Stalinist communism, capable of directing the policies of their parties."

Hilu added in his numerous ennouncements that the Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties had been independent of the Comintern for several years, because leaders of the International knew that the leaders of the Syrian and Lebanese Parties possessed a wide communist education, and there was no fear that they would fall into error. Comment. The Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties had actually been separated from the Comintern and attached to the French Communist Party, which in turn was directed by the Comintern.) In his announcements, Hilu praised the florious activities of the Comintern in serving, strengthening, and directing world communism. He concluded by saying that the Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties would work independently, inspired by the internal interests of their two countries.

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5. The directives, particularly the portion relating to the independence of each of the two Communist Parties, did not please Baghdash, who often criticized Hilu for his independent bent. According to source, he urged his supporters within the Party, such as Nicola Shawl, Fu'ad Qazan, Hashim Amin, Hasan Quraytim, and others, to raise disputes with Hilu by such arguments as: "If it happens that in one of the phases of the struggle of the Communist Party the interests of our country should clash with those of the Soviets, will the lebanese Communist Party stand against the Soviets after the Party's independence?"

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- 6. To such questions Hilu replied: "The Soviets do not stand against the Arab people. If they oppose the Arabs, it is the ruling Arab capitalists they oppose and not the people. At any rate, such questions will be met as they arise."
- 7. Baghdash arranged with his supporters in the Syrian and Lebanese Farties to hold a conference of the leaders of the two parties to discuss the issues arising from the dissolution of the Comintern. This conference was held in September 1944, in the al-Mazra's Quarter of Beirut, under Baghdash's chairmanship. It was attended by more than 240 representatives from the two parties and lasted three days. The conference was closed after decisions were reached supporting the dissolution of the Comintern and proclaiming the independence of the Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties, with the recommendation that they cooperate completely with one another, on the basis that Syria and Lebanon formed one political unit. Source states that this recommendation, supported by a majority of the voters, provided justification for the control exercised by Baghdash over the Lebanese Communist Party.

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